

REMARKS

In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, all of pending claims 5-19 have been cancelled in favor of new independent claims 20 and 21. New claims 20 and 21 are intended to capture the allowable subject matter of claims 14 and 15, which were objected to by the Examiner but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In rewriting claims 14 and 15 into independent form, Applicant has followed the Examiner's direction in not including the term "flotation" in the new claims. In addition to the Examiner's suggestion, it is noted that while the claimed devices are generally buoyant, this is not always necessarily the case.

Applicant reserves the right to continue prosecution of the subject matter of the cancelled claims via a continuation application, and in no way should the present response be interpreted as a concession to the Examiner's position or to create an estoppel with respect to the cancelled subject matter.


In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
USAN 10/649,604

A8650

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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